

BULLETIN
OF
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Editor: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, M. A.

Program of the Sixth Annual Conference of the
Maritime Library Institute
Moncton, N. B., June 20-21, 1940

Thursday, June 20

9:30-12:30

Address by the President of the M. L. I.,
Report of Secretary-Treasurer; Business ;
Librarian's Round Table, with reports from
libraries and library clubs.

2:30

A drive to Hopewell Cape, including visits
to the Silver Jubilee Libraries and afternoon
tea as guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Allan
Drummond.

8:15

Public meeting at the Brunswick Hotel.
Addresses by Hon. C. H. Blakeney, Minister
of Education; Miss Nora Bateson; President
Bramwell Chandler. Topic: Regional libraries
for New Brunswick.

Friday, June 21

9:30-10:30

"Friends of the Library": a discussion opened
with an address by Miss E. M. A. Vaughan.

10:30-11:00

"Friends of the Rural Libraries Association":
an address by Miss Muriel Lutes followed by
discussion.

11:00-11:45

"The New Brunswick Government in relation to
Libraries". Address by Mr. J. B. Bedell fol-
lowed by discussion.

11:45-12:30

Reports of committees; other business.

3:00

A drive to Magnetic Hill and other interesting
places in the vicinity of Moncton. Tea as
guests of the Moncton Public Library Board.

Meetings, unless otherwise announced, will be held in the Moncton Public
Library. All persons interested in library progress are cordially invited to attend.

Moncton has six hotels, with rooms from \$1.00 a day up. Excellent accom-
modation may be found in private houses at the usual rates. Any person expecting
to attend the Conference may have a room reserved by writing Mrs. B. F. Moore,
Librarian, Moncton Public Library, Moncton, N. B.

Moncton Public Library

Previous to November 17th, 1911, there had been much discussion about the crying need of a Library in Moncton and when, on that date, the members of Fort Cumberland Chapter, I. O. D. E., met for their monthly meeting it was felt that the time had come for definite action. A committee was appointed to confer with the Executive of the Canadian Club with the view of securing their co-operation. The Canadian Club responded enthusiastically; this committee met with them and discussed the project and immediately plans for a public library were formulated.

Many books and cash donations were received. Fort Cumberland Chapter raised one thousand dollars to be handed over to the City when the Library was taken from the Committee. The day never arrived, for the City Building was burned and the Library destroyed without any insurance. The newly formed Library Association went forward undaunted even though the fire had made great economy a necessity and no grant was forthcoming. Again members of Fort Cumberland Chapter offered to assume financial responsibility for the Library, drawing on the one thousand dollars to do so. The Library was opened to the public in January, 1912, and continued to function until 1926. The Chapter gave all their books and furnishings as a nucleus of the new organization. This gesture was greatly appreciated.

After fifteen years the demand for expansion became insistent. A debating team from the Knights of Pythias after a debate in Sussex decided that a larger and more adequate library service was needed in Moncton. On March 17th, 1926, a circular letter was sent out by Westmorland Lodge, Knights of Pythias, to over one hundred organizations in the city, inviting them to send delegates to a public meeting to be held in the Council Chambers on the evening of April 19th, to consider the possibility of promoting a larger and more up-to-date Library. The Knights had collected a large and very valuable mass of information bearing on every phase of library work and this they generously placed at the disposal of the meeting. Mr. T. T. Goodwin, Chancellor Commander of the local Pythian Order, occupied the chair.

After considerable favorable discussion a committee was appointed to report back at another citizen's meeting. The next general meeting was held on the evening of November 26th, 1926, when the report was submitted that through the efforts of the Committee and Mr. Matthew Lodge, the well known Archibald Property had been placed by the Canadian National Railways at the disposal of the City for Library purposes at a nominal rent. The property was taken over by the Committee January 1, 1927, and formally opened February 12th, 1927. Mrs. Marjorie McCleave, a graduate of the Brooklyn, N. Y. Library Training School was appointed Librarian. Ten days following the opening of the Library it was deemed advisable to appoint an assistant and from several applicants for the position Mrs. Moore was appointed.

The house which is now used as the Public Library was built more than eighty years ago by Mr. Duncan Robertson, a ship-builder, who came from Richibucto in 1845. Large size hand-hewn lumber of excellent quality was used and the bricks for fireplaces and chimneys were manufactured on the premises. Mr. Robertson and his family occupied the new house for some years, later moving to Cocagne.

Preparations were then being made for the construction of the European and North American Railway, the first section of Railway built in New Brunswick, running from St. (now Saint) John to Shediac. The Robertson home was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. William Agate of England and named the "European and North American Railway Hotel", and enlarged to play an important part in the life of the Bend, already a railroad centre.

Time passed and in 1860 the hotel was closed. The building became a recreational centre for the boys of the Village. It is gratifying to know that it is now a recreational centre for the boys and girls, men and women of Moncton who find reading not only a recreation but an education, and the "guests" registered from

1927 to 1937 numbered no less than ten thousand. Since then new and re-registered members are well over forty-two hundred

In looking back over the past thirteen years it is interesting to note the growth of the Moncton Public Library. A room for the Girls and Boys was opened, a Story Hour arranged for Saturday afternoons. One day early in April of this year the peak in Juvenile circulation was reached when one hundred and thirty-nine books were borrowed. The young people are using the Library more for their reference work, debates and studies. Two of the High School girls help us during the after school rush period.

The number of books on the shelves December 31, 1939, was 12,688. In 1927 the total circulation was 41,577 volumes. In 1932 it was 82,932, the highest in any year. The average circulation for the thirteen years was 63,124 books, representing quite a "turnover" for the number of volumes.

Discarded books and magazines have been sent to hospitals, shut-ins, the sanatorium and other institutions. In the past year we have given books to the "Friends of the Rural Libraries Association" for distribution among the school teachers who circulate them in the rural communities.

The Hon. C. H. Blakeney, Minister of Education in N. B., was a member of the original Library Committee and first treasurer of the Moncton Public Library Board.

--Miss Berdia F. Moore, Librarian.

Mr. Harry Piers

(This brief sketch of the late Mr. Piers's life and work should have appeared in our last issue, but it arrived a day too late.--Editor)

Members of the Maritime Library Institute heard with regret the news of the death of Mr. Harry Piers. Delegates to last year's conference will remember that he was present and took a keen interest in the meetings.

Mr. Piers was associated with the Provincial Museum and the Provincial Science Library for many years. He studied under Dr. Honeyman and in 1899 succeeded him as curator. In 1900 he was appointed librarian of the newly founded Provincial Science Library, the first public library for the whole of Nova Scotia.

The Library has an interesting history. In 1899 the Nova Scotia Institute of Science expressed its willingness "to intrust its library to the custody of the government (the right of property remaining with the society) on condition that it should be made the nucleus of a public library to be maintained by the government in connection with the Provincial Museum and to be open to all who might wish to use it, under such restrictions only, as might be necessary for the safe-keeping of the books, and also on condition that the government appoint a competent librarian to take the library in charge." The government accepted these conditions, and in the summer of 1900 founded the Provincial Science Library of Nova Scotia. Later in the year scientific books from the Legislative Library, manuals, and text books purchased by the government were added and the whole thrown open to the public.

The first report describes the installation of the library in the Burns and Murray Building. Subsequent reports show internal development. New accession books were prepared in 1902, the Dewey Decimal system of classification was adopted in 1906 and books were shelved accordingly. In 1911 the library outgrew its surroundings and was moved to the Technical College where it is now housed. Since that time the library has shown a steady increase in accessions and circulation.

In addition to his work in the Science Library Mr. Piers assisted in the compilation of a catalogue for the Legislative Library, and prepared annotated catalogues for King's College Library and the Citizen's Library in Halifax.

Mr. Piers had many interests. He was a member of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, the Nova Scotia Society of Artists, and the Canadian Authors' Association. He was the author of many historical and scientific articles, and the editor of the following works:— Chronological table of Dartmouth, Preston, and Lawrencetown, History of Dartmouth, Preston, and Lawrencetown, by Mrs. William Lawson, and the Nova Scotian Volume of the Biographical Review, Boston, 1900.

--Charlotte Allan

A Librarian's Committal

In memory of Meredith Allison White, of the library staff of the University of New Brunswick, who died December 28, 1934.

Athena, hear!
A maiden good and dear,
A priestess of the Book,
Has left her usual nook
And seeks your hall tonight,
Lured by its splendor bright,
Seeks it from Death's dark fear;
Ah, give her place
In all your wisdom's grace!
Athena, hear!

Athena, hear!
One was Who sojourned here,
'Tis said, the Son of God,
Who, while He walked the sod
Of Earth, and ate our food,
And in our temples stood,
Opened the Book and read
In the priest's stead.
O memory hallow'd, dear!
Athena, hear!

Athena, hear
This maiden good and dear,
This priestess of the Book,
Receive; and in some nook,
Carven and rich and grand
Bid her a moment stand
And see the Books of old
Gathered while Ages rolled.
Then give her golden pen
And bid her work again!
Ah, hold her good and dear;
Athena, hear!

--Mary Kinley Ingraham.

NOTES AND PERSONALS

The sixty-second Annual Conference of the A. L. A. meets in Cincinnati May 26 - June 1. Theme: Development within the States.

In February Mr. James B. Bedell of Fredericton, N. B., was appointed director of school and community library service for the department of education in the province of New Brunswick. Mr. Bedell received the degree of B. Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in 1933, and subsequently the degree of M. A. in education from Columbia University.

Mrs. B. F. Moore of Moncton Public Library has sent us a mimeographed synopsis of the aims and projects of the Friends of the Rural Library Association organized by the Rural Teachers' Association of the Moncton District in November, 1939. Its work will be discussed by the corresponding secretary, Miss Muriel Lutes, at the coming Moncton Conference.

Miss Charlotte A. Allan, Secretary of the Halifax Library Club, writes: "The Club has held three meetings in 1940. We are studying the history of printing, and papers on this subject have been read by Mrs. Cornell, Miss Fraser, and Miss Gifford. Miss Harris presented most interesting reviews of the various library journals." Miss Evelyn Campbell of the Provincial Science Library is President.

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia publishes a Bulletin notable as a journal of historical research. The latest issue consists of an essay by a member of the staff, Mr. J. S. Martell: The achievements of Agricola and the Agricultural Societies, 1818-1825.

We have received from the Prince Edward Island Libraries their "Selected List of New Books Added in April, 1940", 16 pages; and a catalogue of the holdings of the Libraries in technical books, 41 pages. Both these documents are mimeographed.

The annual report of Mr. Charles R. Sanderson, chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library, is entitled, "Reading in Toronto". It receives high commendation and is partly reprinted in The Library Journal, May 1, 1940.

On May 6 the centenary of the postage stamp was celebrated in London. Exhibits were promised by King George VI from his notable collection, and also by the Postmaster-General. The latter expected to issue commemorative stamps in honor of the occasion.

Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Archivist of British Columbia, has been appointed Chief Librarian of the University of British Columbia, succeeding Mr. John Ridington, who is retiring after twenty-five years of service. Dr. Lamb will take over his new duties on the first of September next. He is also President of the B. C. Library Association for 1939-40.